

Family Engagement

Clarke County School District

April 15, 2010

District Support

School Support

Family Support

Equals Student Achievement



Demographics

Snapshot of Clarke County School District:

- **19 Title I schools in FY10; 21 (all) Title I schools in FY11**
- **Lowest poverty school 51% based on Oct, 2009**
- **Highest poverty school 98% based on Oct, 2009**
- **Economically Disadvantaged: 74%**
- **Students with Disabilities: 13%**
- **English Language Learners: 12%**

Family Engagement Policy Components

1. **Student/Family Learning**
2. **Communication**
3. **Parenting**
4. **Positive & Equitable School Culture**
5. **Parent Decision Making & Advocacy**
6. **Collaborating with the Community**
7. **Equity in Human Resources**



CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students and families.



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Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Parent Breakfasts at Alps Road Elementary

- **August Parent Breakfast Grades K - 5**

Purpose: To invite parents to their child's classroom so that they can meet the teacher, each other, and learn what they can expect in the year ahead.

- **Mid year Parent Breakfast Grades 1 – 5**

Purpose: For parents to understand where the student is on the learning path for the year; what challenges lie ahead; and what families can do to support the work that we have left to do this year

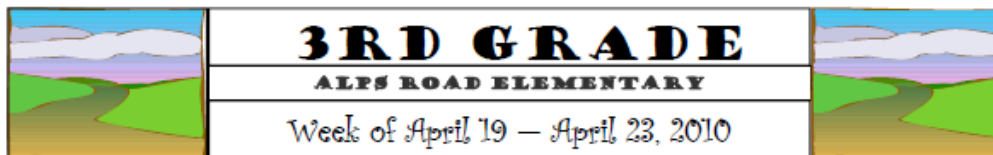
Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Key Ingredients

- **Planning: Principal, Instructional Coach, Counselor and Family Engagement Specialist**
- **Communication: Invitations, Labels, Schedules**
- **Preparation: Teachers & students practice scripts**
- **Breakfast: Free, special table cloths/napkins**
- **Sign in Table: sign in sheet, name tags, community information & resources**
- **Student Presentations: Introductions, Scripts, everyone has a part, time allowed for dialogue**
- **Handouts: Folders, Bookmarks, Newsletters**
- **Feedback and Evaluation: Teachers, Students, Parents**





LOOKING AHEAD!

<u>Reading</u> Response to Literature Story Map (Identify characters, setting, events, plots and solutions)	<u>Math</u> Algebra- identifying geometric and numerical patterns
<u>Writing</u> Response to Literature Subject Verb Agreement Ex. <u>We are</u> going to the store.	<u>Social Studies</u> Taxes, Supply, Demand, Interdependent
<u>Extended Learning</u> Multiplying Whole Numbers Division	<u>Technology</u> VMATH live Ticket to Read Study Island

Content Vocabulary

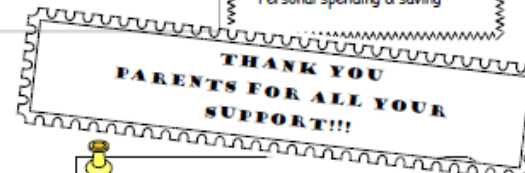
Powerful Words

- ♦ Formulate
- ♦ Support
- ♦ Describe

Social Studies

Government Services:

- Consumers
- Producers
- Currency
- Personal spending & saving



Calendar:

CRCT begins

- ☉ April 21 —Reading
- ☉ April 22—Language Arts
- ☉ April 27—Math
- ☉ April 28—Science
- ☉ April 29—Social Studies

MY LEARNING PATH

This week I learned.....

I need to work on.....

Teacher Names and emails
 Mrs. Head
 headsh@clarke.k12.ga.us
 Mrs. Bell
 belljo@clarke.k12.ga.us
 Mrs. Williams
 williamsk@clarke.k12.ga.us

Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Providing parents with tools to promote student achievement.

- **300 low-income families receive surplus wireless laptop computers for a nominal charge**
- **The above families receive training in Open Office, e-mail, Parent Portal, and academic websites**
- **Support parents who wish to participate in adult education classes either in the schools or in the community**

Component 2: Communication

Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

1. Community Meetings

- **Held in public housing neighborhoods and community centers**
- **Seeks to reach families who may not attend school events**
- **Opportunities to meet school administrators and support staff**
- **Reviews school policies and programs**
 - **Clarke County School District Non-Negotiables**
 - **Student Data Folders**
 - **After school programs**
 - **Attendance programs**
 - **P.B.I.S. – Behavior intervention program**

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Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

2. Annual Workshop for Families with Special Education Students

- **A variety of informational workshops for parents**
 - **Behavioral Supports**
 - **Education, Training, and Career Development**
 - **School-based programs**
 - **Transition and Life Planning**
 - **Legal Information**
 - **Medicaid**
 - **Community Supports**
- **Includes both instructional staff and community organizations**



Component 2: Communication

Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

3. Annual Community Development Fair

- **Informational booths**
- **Huge children's activity room and live entertainment**
- **Summer camp registration in a number of programs**
- **Medical screenings (sponsored by Athens Regional Medical Center)**
- **Free haircuts and manicures**
- **Huge food pantry**
- **Free clothes closet**
- **Door prizes**

4. Co-sponsor Annual Cyber Safety Workshop



Component 2: Communication

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- 1. Hold an annual Title I meeting to inform parents of students academic performance, curriculum, and expectations for the year.**



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Title I Meeting Covers:

- **What Title I is and how it supports student development**
- **Parent rights under Title I**
- **Adequate Yearly Progress**
- **Whether students are meeting state standards**
- **Ways to assist parents in becoming more involved in child's education.**

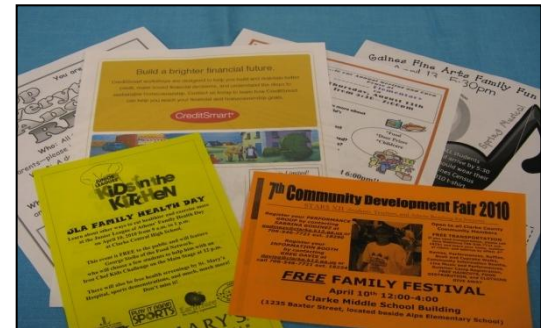
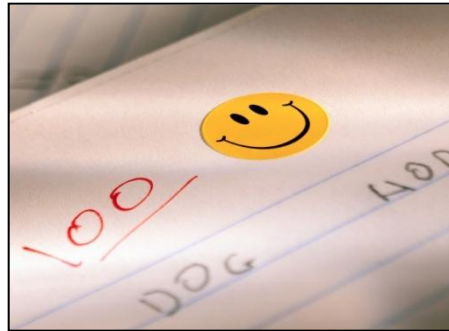


Component 2: Communication

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2. Send home weekly folders with...

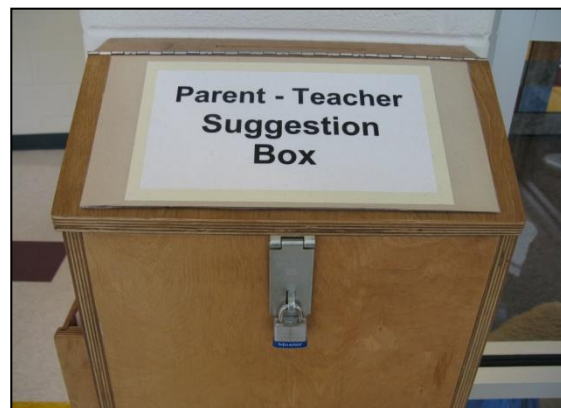
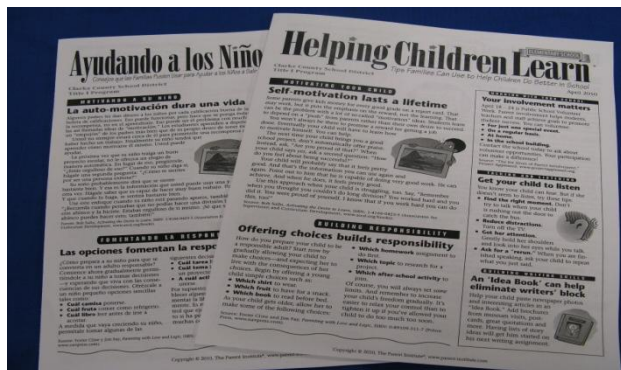
- * Student Work**
- * Assignments**
- * Teacher comments**
- * Notices of school, district and community events**



Component 2: Communication

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- Parenting Tips
- There's also communication through our parent/teacher suggestion box and our Parent Board.



Component 2: Communication

Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

- 3. Teachers are encouraged to make home visits and frequent phone calls to share both student successes and student obstacles to success.**
- 4. Organize curriculum nights, family breakfasts, workshops, PACT and other such events to build a bridge between school and home.**
- 5. Distribute a weekly principal parent newsletter.**
- 6. Advertise school events/successes on Channel 16 and the school website.**
- 7. Promote the use of the web based CCSD Parent Portal.**
- 8. Use Campus Messenger (phone and e-mail) to tell families of school events.**



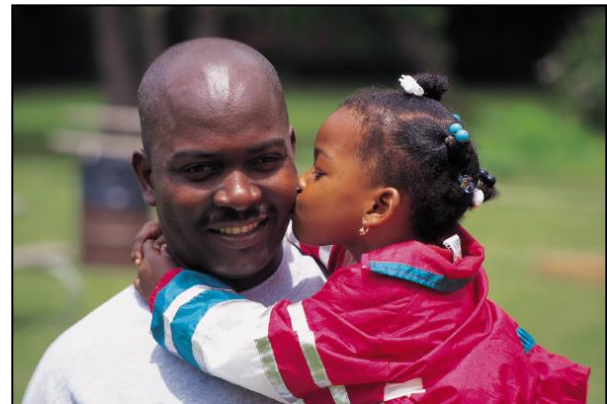
Component 3: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

- 1. BHL maintains a location in the lobby with parenting brochures, community resource materials, notices of important school and community events are readily available for parents.**

Examples of Brochures:

- CRCT information**
- Brochures and Home Visits**



Component 3: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

2. We provide family workshops on community resources & how to support the emotional, social and academic growth of their children

- **Common Sense Parenting Classes**
- **Adult Computer Classes**
- **Math/CRCT Night**
- **Home Visits**



Component 4: Positive & Equitable School Culture

School cultures are open, helpful and inviting.

- 1. Our staff creates classroom atmosphere reflecting an acceptance of, and respect for all students and families.**
 - Open door policy for parents to visit classroom at any time.**
 - Celebrating classroom meetings and parties where parents are invited to bring food.**
 - Weekend journals.**

Component 4: Positive & Equitable School Culture

School cultures are open, helpful and inviting.

- 2. The school culture promotes values, attitudes, and practices that focus and support our diverse community.**
 - Bilingual communication (flyers, school newsletters, electronic communication, phone messages, bilingual personnel in the front offices, translation services in all parent meetings)**
 - Celebrating national holidays and special months i.e Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month with Soul Food Night, Mexican Flavor, Black History program.**

Component 4: Positive & Equitable School Culture

School cultures are open, helpful and inviting.

3. We create opportunities for those with limited resources and time to participate.

- **Offer meetings, and events at different times during the day (breakfast, lunch, evening)**
- **Provide child care, transportation, translation services.**
- **Bring community resources to families through events like CCSD Community Development Fair, school carnivals, mobile pantry.**



Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Parents are encouraged to provide advice, make recommendations and provide assistance in school decisions and advocacy that affect children and families.

Two models

- **School-level Family Engagement Action Teams**
- **Family Engagement Specialist as a member of parent organizations such as PTA and School Council**

Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Family Engagement Action Team at Coile Middle School

- **Members are parents, teachers from each grade level, counselors, administrators**
- **Meets every two months**
- **Focus on two goals:**
 - 1. Developing school uniform policy with input from all stakeholders.**
 - 2. Developing a structure for teacher involvement in the school's family events.**



Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Uniform Policy Process: The FEAT committee established objectives to present a policy to the School Board in February.

- 1. August: parents at open house were overwhelming “for” uniforms.**
- 2. October: over 300 parents were surveyed at parents-teacher conferences and 91% were “for”.**
- 3. December: teachers were surveyed for feedback on the most restrictive policy**

Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

- 4. January: Parents were surveyed for feedback on a revised (more lenient) policy.**
- 5. February: parent input was incorporated and policy submitted and approved.**
- 6. Currently: fundraising and publicity**
 - a. Fashion Show for Rising 6th Grade, 6th and 7th graders in May.**
 - b. PTSO fundraiser to purchase uniforms and sell them at cost. Sponsors logos will be shown on a “spirit day” shirt.**

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FE in Previously Established Teams - Chase Street Elementary

- 1. Think of a time that you were on a team or committee.**
- 2. Why did you choose to be a part of that team?**
- 3. What made your group successful?**



Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Parents are encouraged to provide advice, make recommendations and provide assistance in school decisions and advocacy that affect children and families.

School Council

- **Members: parents and staff**
- **Meets: every 6-8 weeks**
- **Purpose: Provides input on how to better our school**

PTO

- **Members: parents and staff**
- **Meets: once a month**
- **Purpose: Plans events, supports teachers and staff, collaborates with community**

Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Parents are encouraged to provide advice, make recommendations and provide assistance in school decisions and advocacy that affect children and families.

These groups allow parents to focus on what interests them.

FES attends meetings and/or collaborates with parents on next steps to implement new ideas.

Examples:

Exec Board

A is for Arts

Race for Chase

Gardening Club

Parent Coffee Coordinators



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Family Science Night

- **Included teachers, parents and community members**
- **Botanical Gardens provided the stations**
- **Teachers ran each station**
- **UGA students brought insects**
- **1000 Faces Coffee Representative engaged parents**
- **Parents and families contributed to a pot luck dessert buffet**

Everyone had a role and it was a successful event!

Component 5: Parent Decision Making/ Advocacy

Parents are encouraged to provide advice, make recommendations and provide assistance in school decisions and advocacy that affect children and families.

Example of Collaboration Between PTO and FES

Family Science Night

Sponsored by the CSE PTO

What is it? A great opportunity for you and your parents to experience science in an interactive environment!

February 18, 2010

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Chase Street Elementary Gymnasium

Please cut off and return the bottom of this form to your homeroom teacher by February 12th.



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

The school addresses student, family, and community needs through appropriate services and cross-institutional partnerships.

Supporting the physical needs of families

- **Shelter: Locating programs to assist in obtaining affordable housing.**
- **Food: Bringing in food programs that families can benefit from.**
- **Clothing: Making available affordable clothing**
- **Health:**
 - **Dental (Give A Child A Smile)**
 - **Medical (Mercy Health Center)**
 - **Emotional (Camp MAGIK)**



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

The school addresses student, family, and community needs through appropriate services and cross-institutional partnerships.

1. Identify: To appropriately address student, family, and community needs, we must appropriately identify what those needs are. The needs are specific to each individual school and can be identified in several different ways. One of the most effective strategies is through surveys.



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

2. Collaborate and Contact: Once needs are determined, they should be addressed in a variety of ways through contact and communication with appropriate community agencies, organizations, and groups:

HBS Community Block Party Collaborators

- Department of Labor,
- Ladies of Color
- Rainbow Push Coalition
- Community Connections
- DFCS
- Right From the Start Medicaid
- Friends for Life Mentoring
- Council on Aging
- U.S. Census Bureau, etc...



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Around the World Culture Night

- **Vietnamese Student Association**
- **Korean Student Association**
- **Brazilian Student Association**
- **AISEC**
- **Dawgs for Israel, etc..**

Reading Buddies

- **Kiwanis and Optimist Club of Athens**

Partners 4 Success GED Program

- **Alpha Phi Omega Beta Zeta Chapter**



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

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Math Fall Festival

- Athens Nursing School
- Clarke County Democrats
- Young Democrats
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- Kiwanis Club of Athens
- Circle K



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

The school addresses student, family, and community needs through appropriate services and cross-institutional partnerships.

3. Appreciate – The best way to maintain strong community collaboration is to always be as welcoming and accommodating to community members as possible. Perhaps most importantly, we must always show gratitude and appreciation for all the time, service, dedication and support of the community.



Component 7: Equity in Human Resources

Our schools value the diversity of our families by utilizing the life experiences and community memberships of children, family and staff to support individual student growth and overall school goals.

- **Written documents translated into Spanish- invitations, reminders, newsletters, etc.**
- **Interpretation services provided- district and school-level meetings, use of whisper system, collaboration with HandsOn Northeast Georgia and UGA to provide volunteer interpreters for Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.**



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Parents And Children Together (PACT)

- PACT meet once a month for Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. All written communications (invitations, reminders, handouts) are bilingual and interpretation services are provided during the PACT meetings.**
- PACT promotes and supports effective communication between parents and children. It seeks to strengthen relationships, raise esteem and empower individuals.**

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- **PACT engages families in discussions on child development and growth, play, parenting styles, discipline, and self-esteem.**
- **PACT models a child-directed play environment with such activities as play dough, painting, crafts, floor toys, dress-up, books, puzzles, and building blocks.**
- **PACT offers families of older students with an opportunity to learn more about Georgia Performance Standards and how the curriculum can be reinforced at home.**



District Support for Family Engagement

- **District Policy on Parent Involvement**
 - National Network of Partnership Schools and the National Parent Teacher Association models
- **District Family Engagement Specialist and FES staff in all Title I schools**
 - Bilingual and most have a degree in education, counseling, or social work
- **District Family Engagement Action Team**
 - Meets monthly
 - Includes parents and community partners

Staff Development for Family Engagement Specialists

- **Marsha Greenfield – National Network of Partnership Schools – Create a Welcoming Climate**
- **Anne Henderson (co-wrote “Beyond the Bake Sale”) – Building Meaningful Family-School Partnerships**

**Also met with Parents, Community
Partners, Administrators, Counselors,
Graduation Coaches and Academic
Support Staff**



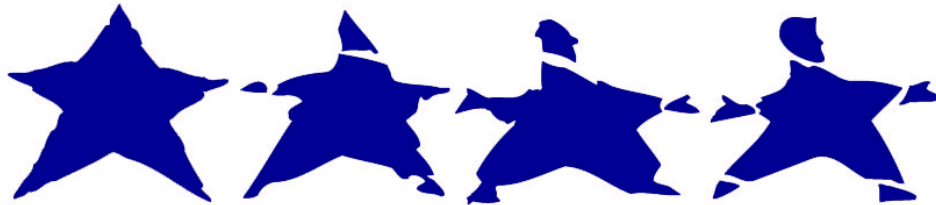
- **Bonnie Blanton – PhD. in Counseling – Constructing a Framework for Staff Development**

Conclusion

- On an index card
write three ideas



from the CCSD Family Engagement
Presentation that you found of value.



CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT